

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF THOMAS “TOMMY”
DORTCH, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2023

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a great husband, loving father, doting grandfather, inspiring author, innovative entrepreneur, dedicated servant and friend of long-standing, Thomas “Tommy” Dortch, Jr. Sadly, Tommy transitioned from this life on February 15, 2023. His funeral service was held on Saturday, February 25, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. at New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Lithonia, Georgia. He leaves behind a legacy of service that will not soon be forgotten.

Tommy Dortch was born on April 12, 1950, in Toccoa, Georgia to the union of Thomas W. Dortch, Sr. and Lizzie Mae Dortch. He graduated in 1968 in the first racially integrated class of Whitman High School in Toccoa and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Fort Valley State College (now University) thereafter. While at Fort Valley, he distinguished himself by being elected Student Government Association President. Tommy would then go on to receive several post-graduate degrees and fellowships, including a Master of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from Clark Atlanta University; a Ford Fellowship in the Urban Administration Program at Georgia State University; and Honorary Doctorates from Fayetteville State University, Jarvis Christian College, Fort Valley State University, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and Livingstone College.

After graduating from Fort Valley, Tommy nobly began his professional career by running voter registration drives to increase voter participation among groups who were historically disenfranchised. In 1974, he began working as the Associate Director of the Georgia Democratic Party, and four years later began working for the office of Senator Sam Nunn, ultimately rising through the ranks to become the first African American State Director to serve in that capacity for a United States Senator.

Always an activist, in 1986, Tommy joined the 100 Black Men of America, Inc., widely known as an organization that is focused on leadership, education, health and wellness, and youth mentoring. Tommy served as Chairman of the 100 Black Men of Atlanta and served twice as the Chairman of the 100 Black Men of America's Board of Directors. His leadership was instrumental in transforming the organization as a powerful force for Black youth empowerment. Tommy was always looking for ways to help young people reach their full potential and in 1986, he founded the Black Alumni Hall of Fame Foundation, Inc.—an organization that has awarded over \$1.1 million in scholarships to the students of our nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

After sixteen years of government service, Tommy left his position as State Director to pursue his own business interests, including minority and small business development and non-profit organizations. He served as the CEO of the consulting firm TWD, Inc. and the Atlanta Transportation Systems, Inc.; Chairman and CEO of Cornerstone Parking; and Managing Partner of FAD Consulting, LLC. He co-founded the Georgia Association of Minority Entrepreneurs (GAME) to fill a void in the state as an advocacy organization for minority business development. Tommy also co-founded the Greater Atlanta Economic Alliance as a capacity building development organization for the construction and transportation industries.

Tommy was a much sought-after speaker on both a national and international stage to governmental entities, corporations, and educational institutions. He also had many guest appearances on nationally acclaimed television programs to include The Oprah Winfrey Show, CNN, the National Press Club and C-SPAN to name a few.

Because of his advocacy and commitment to community service, Tommy was recognized by several national and international publications to include the 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004 May editions of Ebony Magazine and one of its 100 Influential African Americans. The Atlanta Business Chronicle included him as one of its 100 most influential Atlantans from 2001 through 2014. Also, Tommy received numerous awards for his service and advocacy for humankind to include 2008 Community Service Professional of the Year; 2008 FraserNet Community Service Award; 2008 Global Leadership Empowerment Award; Atlanta Business Chronicle 50 Most Admired CEOs, and by the Atlanta Magazine as one of its 500 Most Influential Leaders.

Tommy also gave his time, talent, and treasure to many community organizations to include Vice Chairman of the Board of Grady Memorial Corporation; Chairman of the Board, Friendship Force International; Chairman of the Board, Fulton/Dekalb County Hospital Authority; Chairman of the Board of the Atlanta Business League; Chairman of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation; Board of Trustees, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University; Board of Trustees, Talladega College; and Board of Trustees, Clark Atlanta University.

On a personal note, Tommy was a friend for many years and, along with his wife, Carole, supported my public service in countless ways. I was blessed with his sage advice and counsel over the years, and the world is a better place because of the life that he led.

Jackie Robinson once said that “a life isn't significant except for its impact on other lives.” There is no doubt that the life of Thomas “Tommy” Dortch, Jr. profoundly impacted countless others. He did so much for so many for so long.

Tommy accomplished much in his life, but none of it would have been possible without the grace of God and the love and support of his wife, Carole, his five children and fourteen grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have known a man with as much grace, class, and dignity as Thomas “Tommy” Dortch, Jr. I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the nearly 765,000 people of the Second Congressional District in extending our deepest condolences to his family. May they be comforted by their faith, the grace of God, and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

TRIPLE NEGATIVE BREAST
CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2023

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring awareness to a lesser-known form of breast cancer in recognition of Triple Negative Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Breast cancer is a terrible disease that has impacted so many of our loved ones. This year, the American Cancer Society estimates there will be over 10,000 new breast cancer cases, and nearly 1,500 breast cancer-related deaths in North Carolina alone. In fact, more North Carolinians will be diagnosed with breast cancer than any other type of cancer.

Triple Negative Breast Cancer, or TNBC as it is also known, accounts for 15 to 20 percent of breast cancers and is associated with significant psychological and treatment-related burdens. Compared with non-TNBC cancers, TNBC is a more aggressive type of tumor with a faster growth rate and an almost three times higher risk of recurrence. Also, this type of cancer lacks estrogen, progesterone, and human epidermal growth factor receptors, meaning that targeted treatments aren't effective. Due to these factors, early diagnoses are vital. However, TNBC is particularly prevalent in pre-menopausal women, who are often younger than the age that women can access annual mammograms.

These statistics and factors show that breast cancer, and specifically TNBC, is an imperative issue that must be addressed. During Triple Negative Breast Cancer Awareness Month, I ask that we support fundamental research initiatives to help women suffering from this terrible cancer.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2023

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I was quarantining after testing positive for COVID-19 and was unable to vote on March 27–29, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on the following:

H. Res. 260—Roll Call No. 165;

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

H. Res. 260—Roll Call No. 166;
 Boebert of Colorado Part B Amendment No.
 2—Roll Call No. 167;
 Hern of Oklahoma Part B Amendment No.
 5—Roll Call No. 168;
 Jackson of Texas Part B Amendment No.
 7—Roll Call No. 169;
 Molinaro of New York Part B Amendment
 No. 9—Roll Call No. 170;
 Palmer of Alabama Part B Amendment No.
 10—Roll Call No. 171;
 Perry of Pennsylvania Part B Amendment
 No. 11—Roll Call No. 172; and
 Perry of Pennsylvania Part B Amendment
 No. 12—Roll Call No. 173.
 I would have voted Yea on the following
 bills:
 H.R. 1154—Roll Call No. 163; and
 H.R. 1107—Roll Call No. 164.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND DR.
 EMMETT SCOTT ANITON

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2023

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding mentor, dedicated servant leader, Vietnam War Veteran, faithful servant of God, and dear friend of longstanding, Reverend Dr. Emmett Scott Aniton, Jr. for over four decades of service to his congregation at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. A celebration of his 44th Anniversary at the Church will be held on April 2, 2023 in Columbus, Georgia.

Rev. Emmett Scott Aniton, Jr. was born on March 8, 1940, in Oneonta, Alabama to the union of Mr. Emmett Scott Aniton, Sr. and Mrs. Estella Aniton Woods. He graduated from Southside High School in Etowah County, Alabama and earned his Bachelor of Theology from Selma University in 1964. Shortly thereafter, Rev. Aniton answered his nation's call to service and entered the United States Army, completing a tour of duty in Qui Nho'n Vietnam. He then returned home to Alabama where he matriculated at Alabama A&M University, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology.

After his service in Vietnam and earning his second college degree, Rev. Aniton first answered God's call to preach the Gospel by becoming the Pastor of First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Alabama. There, he ministered to the needs of his congregation, christening infants, baptizing believers, performing marriages, and consoling bereaved families, all while developing and honing his skills as a church administrator and inspiring preacher.

In November of 1978, Rev. Aniton accepted the call to become the pastor of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, and he followed the Holy Spirit to Columbus, Georgia. His pastoral duties began in April of 1979 and he has faithfully and dutifully served for over four decades. Under Rev. Aniton's dynamic and spirit-filled leadership, Friendship Missionary Baptist Church has experienced tremendous growth—spiritually, numerically, and in its building facilities.

Rev. Aniton's outstanding servant leadership did not stop at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church; his impact has been felt throughout the greater Columbus community and beyond.

He has served on the boards of the Pastoral Institute, the Liberty Theatre, the Metro Columbus Urban League, and the Fourth Street Towers. He has served as the President of the Mount Calvary Congress of Christian Education and the Muscogee County Clergy Association; instructor for the General Missionary Baptist Convention, Georgia Congress of Christian Education, and the American Baptist Theological Seminary.

Sir Winston Churchill once said, "You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give." Rev. Emmett Scott Aniton has given of himself over forty years of dedicated service to the glory of God and to his faithful congregation.

Rev. Emmett Scott Aniton has received numerous awards, such as the NAACP Religious Affairs Award, the Rainbow PUSH Coalition Lifetime Achievement Award, the Peace, Unity, Honesty, and Leadership Award; and in May of 2021, received an Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from St. Thomas Christian College in Jacksonville, Florida.

Reverend Dr. Aniton has achieved so much in his life, but none of it would have been possible without the grace of God and love and support of his late wife, Mrs. Dorothy Rigby Aniton; his children, Minister Rhonda Aniton Bell, Emmett Scott Aniton III, and Keisha Aniton Simmons; his grandchildren and other family members.

On a personal note, I have been blessed by Rev. Aniton's sage counsel and advice over the four decades that I have known him, and I am proud to call him my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me; along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District, in honoring and commending the Reverend Dr. Emmett Scott Aniton, Jr. for 44 years of dedicated service to Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. Moreover, we pray for God's continued blessings upon him and his family in the weeks, months and years ahead.

HONORING MADELINE PUMARIEGA

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2023

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I rise today to recognize Madeline Pumariega whose lifelong dedication toward serving our students and her community has had a resounding impact on South Florida.

A cherished friend and brilliant leader, Madeline Pumariega may have inherited her passion for academics and service excellence from her mother, a Miami-Dade County Public School teacher. Pumariega's enthusiasm only grew while attending Miami Dade College as a student. She is devoted to ensuring that students have a path toward upward economic mobility through educational opportunities. This commitment led her to serve as President and CEO of Take Stock in Children, a statewide nonprofit focused on breaking the cycle of poverty by helping students complete their high school education and advance into post-secondary education and careers.

Her drive to serve and excel was exemplified in her appointment as the first female His-

panic chancellor of the Florida College System (FCS). In that role, she improved several Florida College System schools, helping them to rise in the rankings of U.S. News & World Report and other national measures. During her tenure, Florida was named No. 1 in higher education by U.S. News. In 2019, she became the executive vice president and provost of Tallahassee Community College, where she dutifully and successfully led the school during the unprecedented challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A true trailblazer in academia, Madeline Pumariega's hard work and dedication has culminated in her current role as the President of Miami-Dade College. Under her leadership, Miami-Dade College has flourished, as Madeline has prioritized working with business partners to identify the skills needed by key industries, while tailoring higher education programs to match those needs. This intentional formation of strategic alliances and job pathways between companies and MDC students actively accelerates each graduate's ability to enter the workforce immediately. Her relentless drive to develop leaders and build thriving communities has contributed to numerous successes for students in South Florida and my district.

Mr. Speaker, as a commendable leader in academia, Madeline has proven her unwavering commitment through the success of each student she encounters. It is a privilege to honor this outstanding individual for her service, dedication, and invaluable contributions to the South Florida community today. We all benefit from the successes of the educators in our communities, and I thank Madeline for her work in advancing the futures of thousands of Floridian students.

RECOGNIZING THE FARMERS MARKET AND FOOD BANK LOCAL REVITALIZATION ACT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2023

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, access to affordable, nutritious food is essential to leading a long and healthy life. Every day, more and more Americans are buying food locally at farmers' markets for their daily needs. "Local" matters. Supporting local farmers means local food security, lower prices, and fresh local products for people who reside near them.

As food prices have risen, families and seniors have shouldered a heavier burden when shopping at the grocery store. That is why the Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program, and the Women, Infant, and Children Farmers' Market Program are so critical.

For more than 20 years, these programs have connected families and seniors with affordable, locally grown fruits, vegetables, honey, and food produced by neighboring farmers—benefiting everyone in a remarkable partnership.

Recognizing the vital role farmers' markets and roadside stands play in big cities and small towns all across our nation, today I am reintroducing the "Farmers Market and Food Bank Local Revitalization Act" which strengthens and directly brings together local farmers and the people in their communities.

Remember, what America makes and grows, makes and grows America.

HONORING VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2023

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and thank the Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and bravery to defend this country. On Wednesday, we observed Vietnam Veterans Day, a day to pause and remember the sacrifice and heroism of our veterans in one of our country's longest and most difficult conflicts.

We observe National Vietnam Veterans Day on March 29th to pay tribute to the 9 million Americans who served during this era. This year, March 29 is not only National Vietnam Veterans Day, but it is also the 50th anniversary of March 29, 1973, the day the United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam was disestablished, and the day the last U.S. combat troops departed Vietnam. In addition, on and around this same day Hanoi released the last of its acknowledged prisoners of war.

We are blessed to enjoy the freedom and security in this country today because of the sacrifice and service of veterans like these. As elected representatives, we have no higher duty than to ensure our nation's heroes receive the recognition they have earned and to commemorate the 58,000 soldiers that never made it home.

We cannot express our gratitude enough for all the Americans who served in Vietnam. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Vietnam veterans not just on this day, but every day. Our nation is forever in their debt.

BULGARIA ADVANCES ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Elias Gedeon, senior vice president for Westinghouse Energy Systems, for signing a Memorandum of Understanding to commence preparation for the probable deployment of at least one of their AP1000 reactors to Bulgaria's Kozloduy nuclear power plant.

Kozloduy NPP-Newbuild, with chairman Georgy Kirkov, has undertaken the project, implemented March 1st, to build the new reactors at the site, ensure the licensing and structure comply with regulations, while also achieving Bulgaria's nuclear energy goals.

"This cooperative agreement sets us up on a path toward providing both economic and environmental benefits from the Bulgarian people while bolstering the country's energy security," stated David Durham, Energy Systems President for Westinghouse.

As chairman of the Bulgarian Caucus, I appreciate President of Bulgaria Rumen Radev on the significant development made towards reaching the country's nuclear energy goals.

RECOGNIZING PETE REED

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2023

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise along with my colleague, Rep. FRANK PALONE, to honor the life and selfless service of Pete Reed. Pete was a beloved part of the Bordentown, New Jersey community. He was a Marine Corps veteran who was killed in Ukraine last month while volunteering on a humanitarian mission. Pete was in Ukraine providing medical care to injured Ukrainian servicemembers and civilians, putting his own life in danger to try and save others, when he was killed in a missile strike.

Pete dedicated his life to helping people in need. In the Marine Corps, Pete did two tours in Helmand, Afghanistan. Following his service, he joined Team Rubicon to help his neighbors recover from Superstorm Sandy and ended up beginning a new career as a paramedic.

His wife Alex described Pete as always placing others' needs above his own and committing himself and serving to benefit others. Pete was also highly involved in the founding of Global Response Medicine, to provide emergency medical care for "the world's most vulnerable people in the midst of conflict, war, or disaster." That same drive to serve is what took Pete to Ukraine, to help people who were under siege by one man's egotistical quest for warmongering.

Pete was a kind soul who inspired the people around him and brought peace and calm to the people he touched. We were lucky to have Pete as part of our community. His courage and compassion are examples that we all can and should follow in our own lives. Our sympathies are with Alex, Pete's entire family, his friends, and for anyone who knew him and are grieving for his loss. It's clear that he had a profound impact on New Jersey and on the world. Pete will be missed.

HONORING IRVIN LEWIS COIN

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2023

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Irvin Lewis Coin—an educator, philanthropist, and community leader in my home state of Arizona. Irvin was a member of the Hopi Tribe and devoted his life to ensuring that young people, regardless of their background or social status, had the opportunity to pursue higher education. Throughout his 40-year career, he helped change the lives of many and my state, and our nation, is a better place because of him.

Irvin grew up in a one-bedroom house just steps away from the railroad tracks along the historic Route 66 in Winslow. Early in life, he learned to play the trumpet—and he was good at it too. His musical talent helped him earn a scholarship to Arizona State University in Tempe, and he graduated in 1958 with a bachelor's degree in education. Irvin began teaching in public high schools in the Phoenix area, and after earning his master's degree,

he became the first director of ASU TRIO, where he laid the groundwork for ASU's TRIO Programs at the university. Because of his work, thousands of low-income, first-generation college students and students with disabilities have been empowered with the tools to achieve their highest aspirations.

Irvin also served as the president of the Western Association of Educational Opportunity Personnel Board of Directors, where he worked to ensure educational opportunities through the members that represented the TRIO program personnel. He strived to create what he called "an army of leaders whose purpose is to change the world." Today, students and teachers across the nation benefit from Irvin's philanthropy—and his visionary leadership has created intergenerational prosperity and opportunity for families in Arizona.

Arizona owes a debt of gratitude to Irvin, who we lost at the age of 82 on February 24. His commitment to making a difference in the lives of others will be felt for generations to come. In this spirit of gratitude and remembrance, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Irvin Lewis Coin.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHARLIE DOWD

HON. RYAN K. ZINKE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2023

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, Montana and Americans everywhere lost a great patriot, warrior, and servant with the passing of Mr. Charles A. "Charlie" Dowd, radioman, U.S. Navy.

Born in Rochester, NY, and later calling Montana home, Charlie was the son of a World War I veteran and enlisted in the Navy while he was in high school. At age 17 he received his orders and was assigned to duty at Pearl Harbor. On the evening of December 6, 1941, Dowd reported for duty at 2330. He worked through the night before returning to his barracks at daybreak.

Dowd awoke to America under attack. In just his T-shirt and boxer shorts he grabbed his rifle and brass and took position on the roof. He fired so many rounds at attacking Japanese combatants that his rifle barrel burned like his anger. As Dowd recalled some years later, "I didn't have any fear at the time," he said. "We were angry." It was that courage and anger and love of country that eventually led us to victory in the Pacific and Europe.

There were 2,403 service members and civilians who died that day, and 14 of them were from Montana. As one of the few survivors on the attack at Pearl Harbor, he continued his military service on vessels in the Pacific Theater in the Solomon Islands and New Guinea until the end of the war and was discharged in 1945.

For his military service, he was awarded multiple Bronze Stars and several other commendations.

I had the honor of visiting Dowd over the years. Listening to his stories and the stories of the men he served with are humbling and moving. More than 70 years later at 99 years old, he could still tap to the messages he sent as a radioman in Morse code on the table we visited on in Anaconda.

In Charlie's time after war, he continued his second life of service as a high school teacher for building trades where he filled young minds with memories they still talk about today. He leaned into his passion as a sportsman by spending time hunting, fishing, and writing a weekly column named 'The Wild Side' which became a staple for the Western Montana community.

Charlie's life with his wife Clara was the epitome of the American dream and our state was made a better place because they called it home. History will know Charlie Dowd as one of the last living survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor, a Montana legend, and true American hero.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS EQUAL ACCESS ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2023

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today Representative MAST and I introduced the Veterans Equal Access Act. This legislation would provide equal access to state-legal medical marijuana for veterans participating in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care. It ends the harmful VA prohibition on doctors and health care providers giving opinions or recommendations on, or completing forms for, state-legal medical marijuana programs.

U.S. cannabis laws are broken, including our laws that govern veterans' access to medical cannabis. Many veterans report using cannabis for medical purposes as a substitute for prescription drugs. The VA National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) has acknowledged that veterans use cannabis to relieve symptoms of PTSD, and that in many states PTSD is a qualifying condition for enrollment in medical cannabis programs.

Most states with state-legal medical cannabis programs require some sort of recommendation or approval from a medical provider for patients to enroll in the program. However, VA policy prevents VA physicians and care providers from any participation, including helping with the required paperwork or forms.

This forces veterans to seek care outside of the VA system to receive medical cannabis recommendations, which can interrupt continuity of care, lead to mistakes or gaps in care, and require veterans to pay out of pocket for additional physician visits. VA physicians should not be denied the ability to offer a recommendation that they think may meet the needs of their patients. And veterans should not be forced outside the VA system to seek treatment that is legal in their state.

The Veterans Equal Access Act would allow VA doctors and healthcare providers to give their opinions or recommendations on medical cannabis and to complete forms in compliance with state-legal medical marijuana programs.

I look forward to working with my co-leads, Representative BRIAN MAST and Senators JACKY ROSEN, and my colleagues in the House and Senate to enact this legislation and provide equal access to state-legal medical cannabis for our veterans participating in VA health care.

HONORING THE SOUTH HAMPTON ROADS BAR ASSOCIATION ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2023

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the South Hampton Roads Bar Association on its 100th Anniversary.

The South Hampton Roads Bar Association, initially called the Tidewater Bar Association, was formed in October 1923 to empower African American attorneys in the Hampton Roads region of Virginia. Members of the association promoted the advancement of African Americans in the Commonwealth of Virginia and fought against the unjust practices of segregation and racial discrimination.

As one of the oldest African American bar associations in the nation, the South Hampton Roads Bar Association remains active and supports racial equality within the legal community in the Hampton Roads area. It is comprised of members that have distinguished themselves as devoted Commonwealth Attorneys, state and federal judges, members of the Virginia General Assembly and city councils. Through their present work, they are continuing the legacy of the founding members to strive towards racial equality and to build a community focused on opportunities for all.

I want to thank Attorney W. Marcus Scriven, the current President of the South Hampton Roads Bar Association, for his leadership and dedication to the organization's mission. I also want to thank all prior presidents and the many African American legal professionals who laid the foundation for this association to thrive for so long.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to congratulate the member of the South Hampton Roads Bar Association on the many hard-fought battles won since their inception 100 years ago and wish them many more years of success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2023

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 167, I mistakenly voted no when I intended to vote yes.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER L.C. "BUCKSHOT" SMITH

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2023

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of longtime law enforcement Officer L.C. "Buckshot" Smith of the Camden Police Department. This week, at 93 years old, Officer Smith will be retiring after over 60 years of invaluable service to the people of Camden, Arkansas.

Officer Smith's dedication to protecting and serving the people of his community goes deeper than just his badge; it's in his heart. His true character has been evident through the relationships he's built within the community he's served for so long. Throughout his record-long career, Officer Smith has treated everyone in Camden with the utmost fairness and respect. He's held the nickname "Buckshot" for most of his life, and everyone in Camden knows him as such.

While he will surely be missed by the Camden Police Department, his 60-plus years of service will be remembered forever. Officer Smith is a beloved member of the community, and his legacy will go down in history as one that was built on the Golden Rule to treat others as you would want to be treated.

I'm proud to recognize Officer L.C. "Buckshot" Smith for his historic career in law enforcement, and I want to thank him for making such a deep and lasting impact on his community, the 4th District of Arkansas, and our country. I hope his record of service will be an inspiration to all who follow in his footsteps.

HONORING YVETTE BENARROCH

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2023

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I rise today to recognize Yvette Benarroch whose lifelong dedication toward serving her country and her community has had a significant impact on Southwest Florida.

Born in Luquillo, Puerto Rico, Yvette began her time in public service in the United States Air Force, serving in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm before returning to Puerto Rico. After earning her bachelor's degree in marketing from Interamerican University of Puerto Rico and attaining her master's degree in marketing from Southern New Hampshire University, Yvette began her professional career in public relations and education. She later became a successful entrepreneur.

However, Yvette never lost her servant-leader spirit inspired by her time in service to her country. She maintains that her "service to her country has no expiration date." Since moving to Naples, Florida in 2003, Yvette has served as a volunteer and board member in various local nonprofit organizations, further investing in her community by coordinating several hurricane relief efforts and food collection drives. When her community needed her the most, Yvette was always there. Yvette's staunch commitment toward helping her community has been both an inspiration and a blessing to those around her.

Motivated by her love of country, her conservative values, and her dedication to service, Yvette soon found herself involved in local, state, and federal politics. Additionally, Yvette also served as Vice Chairwoman for the Collier County GOP from 2020 to 2022 and was a former State Vice Chairwoman for the Republican National Hispanic Assembly of Florida. Today, she is the second Vice President for the Florida Federation of Republican Women.

Yvette's persistent drive to continue her involvement in her community, specifically in

Collier County, demonstrates her character and profound love for her country. Throughout her distinguished career and service, she has educated, motivated, engaged, and empowered other women and American Hispanics. She has inspired others to become leaders in politics and civic engagement. Yvette is a grassroots leader and conservative activist whose impact extends through Southwest Florida and beyond. Somehow, in addition to Yvette's work, she finds the time to play tennis, ballroom dance, and spend time with her husband, two sons, and their loyal golden retrievers Rocky and Lucky.

Mr. Speaker, as a lifelong public servant and true patriot, Yvette has proven time and time again her unwavering commitment to the community. It is a privilege to honor her today, and to thank her for her dedication, hard work, and service on behalf of our community and country.

LOWER ENERGY COSTS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) to lower energy costs by increasing American energy production, exports, infrastructure, and critical minerals processing, by promoting transparency, accountability, permitting, and production of American resources, and by improving water quality certification and energy projects, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I am here today to voice my strong opposition to H.R. 1—because it will not and never could lower energy costs, and it is not taking the long view of where this Nation must go to reach true energy independence.

Too often when policy makers talk about energy there are too many sound bites and not enough balanced common-sense approaches to our Nation's energy future.

The economy and energy consumption are critically linked to each other because economic activity requires energy consumption.

We all know that the booming economy under President Biden has led to energy demand increases and that the war in Ukraine although far from our shores has impacted global energy supply and as a consequence the price of energy.

President Biden took decisive action that has led to the sixth consecutive month of reductions in inflation across the entire economy and includes prices at gas pumps.

Democrats who took decisive action in the 117th Congress to take control of United States' energy future made major investments in renewable energy that is creating jobs, lowering the cost of energy and putting American consumers first.

The oil and gas industries fueled the economic growth and global success of the United States in the last century and without a doubt bolstered the economy that created the largest middle class in our Nation's history.

Oil and gas today and into the near future will continue to play an important role in the

Nation's strategic and economic interest well into this century.

It is important to note that some of the big wins from the Inflation Reduction Law will be the oil and gas industries, which has made significant investments in renewable energy already.

It is a simple fact that the owners and operators of the energy delivery infrastructure in the United States—the pipelines, electric power grids, and gasoline distribution hubs that supply energy to an overwhelming majority of homes and businesses in the United States is not going to change anytime soon.

The Inflation Reduction Law included multiple oil and gas leasing reforms to reflect today's pursuit of offshore oil and gas exploration while at the same time incentivizing the pursuit of wind and solar by the oil and gas industry.

The Inflation Reduction Law will issue in the Energy Age that will bridge the gap between the old and the new forms of energy that will continue to fuel the American economy.

This is not nor should it be viewed as a war against the old and new forms of energy but a bridge that will allow a smooth transition to the many facets of energy provision that will mean prosperity and jobs, while providing low-cost affordable energy for all people.

My greatest concern is that H.R. 1, if it becomes law, would roll back, important reforms by lowering royalty rates, repealing interest fees, and reinstating noncompetitive leasing.

H.R. 1 rubber-stamps the construction of new natural gas pipelines—which is already frighteningly easy—while shutting every agency, apart from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, out of the review process.

Natural gas is a viable and important component of energy security for the United States, but its extraction, processing, and delivery to consumers does come with risks.

Natural gas in its raw form is odorless and colorless—an odor is added so that people can detect its presence and respond to the threat before it is too late.

It is important that safeguards remain in place regarding exploration to protect gas field workers and people who may be in the vicinity of exploration activities.

H.R. 1, also poses risks to the United States strategic interest because it removes the requirement that Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) exports be determined to be in the public interest before being sent overseas, tearing down guardrails that prevent our adversaries from purchasing more of our energy to use against us.

H.R. 1 poses risks to our national parks and public treasures because it would bypass the local and public interest in national lands by allowing oil and gas lease sales even if there is no national interest to support approval of the sale of mineral leases on these lands.

The sale of leases on land that is owned by the American people should solely be in the interest of the people of the United States and this can be determined by identifying that there are no nonpublic sources of oil and gas to meet demand.

The Nation is on the road toward a smooth transition to other forms of energy to complement its use of oil and gas that will result in a balance of energy options for a more stable, more affordable, and reliable energy supply.

The Nation's current mining law is over 150 years old and does need updating, but it

should be done so with all stakeholders at the table with a win-win approach.

H.R. 1 makes this dangerous status quo worse.

H.R. 1 allows mining on public land and the dumping of toxic mining waste as the “highest and best use” of those lands, which means the lands will not be suitable for a return to public use without a significant investment by taxpayers to cleanup and restore it to a natural state.

I am not saying that all mining or exploration companies will follow the letter of the law—in H.R. 1 should it become law, but if only a few mining leases leave mining waste on public land and are so reckless as to not restore land to its original state the damage would be significant.

H.R. 1 would also allow extraction of valuable minerals without paying the owners of the land—the American people in strict violation of every principle of oil and gas leasing.

Private property owners who lease for oil and gas exploration expect to be compensated for the lease of their land—the American taxpayer should not expect any less from the lease of their public land held by the Federal government.

Letting mining companies continue to extract valuable minerals from public lands without paying anything to the American people is establishing a dangerous precedent for private landowners with minerals, oil, or gas—one that I am sure the people in Texas, Alaska and other high exploration states would take offense over.

To date, mining companies—many of which are foreign-owned—have already extracted an estimated \$300 billion in minerals from public lands and caused untold damage, without paying a single dime to American taxpayers.

H.R. 1 does nothing to improve tribal consultation, even though the vast majority of minerals needed for clean energy are located within 35 miles of tribal lands.

The Nation is in the process of transitioning from primary relying on oil and as a source of energy to alternative sources.

The transition from fossil fuels to low-carbon energy sources will depend heavily on the adoption of critical minerals.

Our Nation's clean energy transition will require new minerals, but mining must not come at the cost of our health, our environment, or our special places.

I am very committed to—making sure that the emergence and adoption of new energy sources does not leave environmental victims along the way.

I am aware of one company, Critical Mineral Refining (CMR) of Houston Texas, that has made environmentally sound extraction, transporting and mining of critical minerals its core mission.

CMR's process has been certified by the Environmental Protection Agency as environmentally neutral technology—which means that there is no harm to the water, soil, or air.

Today, as we work to bring new forms of energy to the marketplace and because there are technologies that are cleaner and safer to conduct energy extraction, transportation, and refining these approaches should be adopted as industry standards.

The application of this knowledge to critical minerals will prevent sickness, accidents, and deaths due to antiquated approaches to mining and refining being applied to rare earth

minerals that are needed in solar and wind energy production.

The extraction, transport, and refining of critical minerals could increase sixfold by 2050, according to one scenario by the International Energy Agency.

Industries, consumers, and the nation needs to prepare for the boom that is coming from the emergence of critical minerals into the marketplace.

By value this market could surpass \$400 billion, exceeding the value of all of the coal extracted in 2020.

We must reform our outdated mining system to raise the bar for mining both in the U.S. and across the globe in preparation for this new entrant into the energy marketplace.

Helping critical minerals emerge and guarding its orderly introduction into our commercial sectors is a major objective of the United States to minimize externalities that often accompany extraction-based enterprises that too often rely upon complex global supply chains.

The city of Houston—through Hurricane Harvey's flood waters, Winter Storm Uri's electric grid failures, and other climatic events has experienced the early effects of the climate crisis.

Critical infrastructure like the electric grid and water systems must be resilient enough to withstand extreme weather events.

This is only the beginning, but it is not too late to get the nation and the economy on the right track to combat the most potent threat to our national economy—climate related weather changes.

Climate related weather change cost the U.S. \$169.8 billion last year—a \$14 billion increase from 2021 and a \$55 billion increase from 2020.

All the data shows us that the climate crisis is worsening.

If Republicans cared about the economy as much as they claim, they would invest in science-based, clean energy solutions.

Rolling back of the IRA will have severe consequences, costing the U.S. trillions in economic growth and hundreds of thousands of dollars in jobs.

Climate related weather change is the culprit of natural disasters across the U.S. that have killed nearly 3,800 people and caused significant structural damage. In 2022, U.S. wildfires caused by extreme drought and rising temperatures burned a record number of acres and surpassed the 10-year average.

Last week, a new UN report found that the world will be unable to limit global warming by 1.5 degrees Celsius by the early 2030's. The report also found that global average temperatures could warm by 3.2 degrees Celsius by the end of the century causing seven feet of sea level rise by the end of the century.

Clean energy, joining the contribution of legacy energy sources, is the future for our work-

force sector. Despite fossil fuel production rising by 33 percent since 2014, employment in the fossil fuel industry has declined 34 percent since 2014. Through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, House Democrats are creating nearly 360,000 jobs by the end of this year and 660,000 jobs by the end of 2025.

H.R. 1 masquerades as "energy security" when in reality it only sets the stage for actions by less responsible oil and gas energy providers to put at risk communities that may face higher risks for chemical disasters, more toxic air, more unsafe drinking water, and substantially weaker environmental and public health protections.

The bill also blocks lawsuits from anyone who did not participate in public comment periods (which are also shortened by the bill).

H.R. 1 is drafted so broadly that it exempts all so-called "critical energy resource" facilities—such as petroleum refineries that release air toxics like benzene and use hydrofluoric acid linked to catastrophic chemical disasters—from commonsense Clean Air Act and hazardous waste permitting requirements.

It also shamelessly grants these facilities amnesty for any violations of federal, state, or local environmental law.

H.R. 1 completely erodes the new chemicals review process under the bipartisan Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), allowing new chemicals—even PFAS—on the market without any consideration of safety.

Chemicals in the wrong hands can be weapons that are used to wreak havoc in unsuspecting communities, which can pose threats to homeland security.

Because of these concerns both Republicans and Democrats joined efforts to pass the bipartisan basis in the 2016 TSCA reform law.

The only "permitting reform" in H.R. 1 is the gutting of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a bulwark within federal law governing agency regulations of activities that directly impact people to provide meaningful oversight of processes that pose risks to life, health, safety, community welfare and vulnerable persons that include children, the elderly, the disabled and minorities.

As industry representatives have already said, this attack on NEPA will not help accelerate the energy projects we need; less than 1 percent of projects even go through NEPA's full, detailed environmental review.

One important point to note to people on both sides of the debate—major oil and gas producers do not hate all regulations—they depend on regulations to keep bad actors and poor command and control processes from putting the environment or communities at risk.

Every time there is an accident involving oil, gas, or chemical processes it puts every company and refiner under the spotlight regardless

of the work that has been done and continues to be done to get the job right for the environment, workers, and communities.

H.R. 1 weakens enforcement of nearly all environmental and public health laws by dramatically limiting the statute of limitations for unlawful permit decisions—like those required by the Clean Air Act or Clean Water Act—to 120 days.

Limiting public comment is stopping communities from learning about and communicating their views on government permitting activity—that would like result in actions not in the public interest.

Federal regulatory process delays are caused by a lack of agency resources and staff capacity.

Fortunately, Democrats already passed more than \$1 billion in the IRA for federal agency permitting offices, which will address this issue and is expected to drastically shrink the timelines for permitting.

H.R. 1 codifies the reckless, extreme Trump-era NEPA regulations, which were widely opposed by House Democrats, into law.

These changes prohibit agencies from properly considering climate change and the cumulative impacts of multiple sources of pollution in permitting decisions, among other bad provisions.

H.R. 1 arbitrarily shortens public comment periods for environmental reviews under NEPA and even allows polluters to conduct their own reviews, creating an obvious conflict of interest.

It also requires that these reviews "meet the goals of the [project] applicant," instead of the public's interest.

Outside of NEPA, H.R. 1 allows the owners and operators of "critical energy recourse facilities" to bypass public health and environmental safety standards built into the permitting process, directly endangering the safety of the workers and communities near these facilities.

H.R. 1 also undermines Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, which empowers states and Tribes to holistically protect their lakes, rivers, streams, and other bodies of water from development.

Native people have and continue to be guardian of the land, water, and air whose rights on tribal land must be respected.

Energy independence is within our grasp—and so is cleaner, water, air, and soil.

We should not treat the environment or people as if they are expendable.

To meet this challenge of energy independence, we must stay the course of the Inflation Reduction Law and move ahead in modernizing and increasing the capacity of federal permitting offices, and reform the transmission planning and cost allocation process.